

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of digital video program reproduction within defined

5 premises, said method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a plurality of electronic audio-visual programs;

b) storing said programs in memory;

c) providing a plurality of program reproduction devices adapted to  
reproduce programs for viewers/users;

10 d) networking said memory and said program reproduction devices;

e) selecting a program (“selected program”); and

f) distributing the ability to control reproduction of said selected pro-  
gram among two or more reproduction devices so that, at the selection of a  
viewer, said reproduction of said selected program is seamless between said

15 reproduction devices.

2. The method in Claim 1, wherein said reproduction devices con-  
temporaneously display said selected program on two or more of said repro-  
duction devices.

3. The method in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

designating as part of a hierarchy, a control ranking to each of said reproduction devices; and

5 during control conflicts, allowing the reproduction device attempting to control playback having the highest control ranking, to control the reproduction of said selected program.

4. The method in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

designating one reproduction device as a master device;

designating other reproduction devices as slave devices; and

10 during control conflicts involving the master device and slave devices,

allowing the master reproduction device to control playback of said selected program.

5. The method in Claim 1, wherein Steps e) and f) are carried out during a “live-pause” episode.

6. The method in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

15 viewing a selected program via a first reproduction device;

establishing a pause point;

pausing the playback of said selected program via said first reproduction device; and

20 resuming the playback of said selected program via a second reproduction device from said pause point.

7. The method in Claim 5 wherein two or more reproduction devices are capable of reproducing a selected program independently.

8. A system for digital video program reproduction within defined premises, said system comprising:

5 a) a program receiver adapted to receive a plurality of electronic audio-visual programs;

b) memory adapted to store said programs;

c) a plurality of program reproduction devices adapted to reproduce programs for viewers/users; and

10 d) a network adapted to network said memory and said program reproduction devices;

wherein the ability to control reproduction of a selected program among two or more reproduction devices is distributed so that, at the selection of a viewer, said reproduction of said selected program is seamless between said reproduction devices.

15 9. The system in Claim 8, wherein said memory is subsumed by a server.

10. The system in Claim 8, wherein said reproduction devices contemporaneously display said selected program on two or more of said reproduction devices.

11. The system in Claim 8, wherein each said reproduction device  
is designated to have, as part of a hierarchy, a control ranking, and during  
control conflicts, the reproduction device attempting to control playback  
having the highest control ranking, controls the reproduction of said selected  
5 program.

12. The system in Claim 8, wherein one of said reproduction de-  
vices is designated as a “master device,” and the other reproduction devices  
are designated as “slave devices,” and during control conflicts involving the  
master device and slave devices, the master reproduction device controls  
10 playback of said selected program.

13. The system in Claim 8, wherein said system is adapted to func-  
tion in a “live-pause” mode.

14. The system in Claim 8, wherein said system is adapted to allow  
viewing a selected program via a first reproduction device, establish a pause  
15 point, pause the playback of said selected program via said first reproduction  
device, and resume the playback of said selected program via a second re-  
production device from said pause point.

15. The system in Claim 13 wherein two or more reproduction de-  
vices are adapted to reproduce a selected program independently.

16. A method of digital video program reproduction within defined premises, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving a plurality of electronic audio-visual programs;
- b) storing said programs in memory;
- 5 c) providing a plurality of program reproduction devices adapted to reproduce programs for viewers/users;
- d) networking said memory and said program reproduction devices;

and

- 10 e) contemporaneously displaying a plurality of said programs on at least one reproduction device.

17. A system for digital video program reproduction within defined premises, said system comprising:

- a) a program receiver adapted to receive a plurality of electronic audio-visual programs;
- 15 b) memory adapted to store said programs;
- c) a plurality of program reproduction devices adapted to reproduce programs for viewers/users; and
- d) a network adapted to network said memory and said program reproduction devices;

wherein said reproduction devices are adapted to contemporaneously display a plurality of said programs on at least one reproduction device.